

## A Simple Gift

He was only twelve hours old when I held him in my arms and hummed a little lullabye. If there truly is love at first sight, this was it for me. He is my grandson, and his name is Sammy. He is now five, but my love affair with him has continued since those first few hours of his birth and deepened through the last five and a half years. My husband is not the least bit jealous because I think he feels the same way I do. When he was an infant, I would hold Sammy as often as I could and especially when he was fussy in order to give his sweet Mom a little respite. At our home, my favorite thing to do to comfort him was to take him to our household birdfeeder and talk with him about the beautifully colored birds (especially the red bird) that arrived at the feeders all through the day. I am sure at first that he had absolutely no idea what I was talking about, except that I was talking to him. Soon, he would initiate the trips to the birdfeeder when he had just started taking his first steps. Sammy would help me fill the birdfeeders whenever he came to visit, filling the birdfeeders and his shoes and the cuffs of his pants (all to overflowing). When he was about two, we took him to an Indianapolis Indians game, and I noticed he kept looking

up at the sky and pointing. Although unnoticed by almost everyone else, Sammy wanted me to see all of the birds flying overhead.

He is now five and a half, and upon a recent visit, he was playing and talking with his Grampa, completely ignoring me while I was

making cupcakes in the connected kitchen. Suddenly, he said with uncontrollable enthusiasm, "Hey, Nana! Guess what??? Your red bird came to my house today." Well, considering that Sammy and his parents live a 15 minute drive from our home, I smiled and responded, "Really??? That is so exciting." (Hoping all the while that no one in the room would tell him that the red bird did not belong to Nana and was probably not the same bird.) His innocence and sincerity were a precious gift to me.

It was only later that I realized another significance of this simple gift. It is for these little ones that we plan our estates. My clients do not shed a tear over their estate taxes or probate administration expenses. The true importance lies in our plan for those we leave behind.

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